

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while 5 conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

10 a change step for changing a held portion of the recording medium held by the holding member when the holding time in the holding step exceeds a predetermined time.

2. The contamination preventing method
15 according to claim 1, wherein the change step is performed in such a manner that when the holding time of the recording medium exceeds the predetermined time, the recording medium is fed by a predetermined distance, so that the held portion held by the 20 holding member is changed to another portion.

3. The contamination preventing method
according to claim 1, wherein the change step is performed in such a manner that when the holding time 25 of the recording medium exceeds the predetermined time, the recording medium is fed by a variable distance, so that the held portion held by the

holding member is changed to another portion.

4. The contamination preventing method according to claim 1, wherein the change step is 5 performed in such a manner that, upon reception of an image formation start command, the recording medium is returned to a predetermined position before starting an image formation.

10 5. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

15 a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

a cut-off step for cutting off a contaminated portion of the recording medium due to holding of the recording medium by the holding member when the

20 holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time before performing an image formation.

6. A contamination preventing method during the 25 conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording

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medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

- a conveyance step for conveying a contaminated portion of the recording medium due to holding of the recording medium by the holding member when the holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time as well as a non-contaminated portion continuous to the contaminated portion, so that image formation is performed on a portion after the conveyed portion.

7. A contamination preventing method during the conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming apparatus in which the recording medium is held while conveyed and an image is formed on the recording medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium by a holding member; and

- a holding force change step for changing a holding force of the recording medium by the holding member, so as to change an intrusion amount of the holding member into the recording medium when the holding time in the holding step reaches a predetermined time.

8. The contamination preventing method

according to claim 7, wherein the holding force
change step is performed in such a manner that upon
reception of an image formation start command, the
holding force and the intrusion amount with respect
5 to the recording medium are returned to the previous
states before performing an image formation.

9. A contamination preventing method during the
conveyance of a recording medium of an image forming
10 apparatus in which the recording medium is held while
conveyed and an image is formed on the recording
medium, said method comprising:

a holding step for holding the recording medium
by a holding member; and

15 a holding force release step for releasing
holding of the recording medium by the holding member
when the holding time in the holding step reaches a
predetermined time.

20 10. The contamination preventing method
according to claim 9, wherein the holding force
release step is performed in such a manner that upon
reception of an image formation start command, the
holding force and the intrusion amount with respect
25 to the recording medium are returned to the previous
states before performing an image formation.

11. A contamination preventing method during
the conveyance of a recording medium of an image
forming apparatus in which the recording medium is
held while conveyed and an image is formed on the
recording medium, said method comprising:
5

a holding step for holding the recording medium
by a holding member; and

a conveyance/holding step for conveying the
recording medium and holding a non-image portion by
10 the holding member when the holding time in the
holding step reaches a predetermined time.

12. An image forming apparatus having a
conveying unit for conveying a recording medium
15 through an image formation block, said apparatus
comprising:

a holding member for holding the recording
medium when conveying the recording medium through
the image formation block; and

20 control means for performing control in such a
manner that a contact portion of the recording medium
held by the holding member is maintained only for a
predetermined time and is changed to another contact
portion from time to time.

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13. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control

in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed by a predetermined distance by the conveying unit.

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14. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed by a indefinite distance by the conveying unit.

15. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, a contaminated portion of the recording member contaminated by the holding member is cut off before performing an image formation.

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16. The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the control means performs control in such a manner that when a holding time holding the recording medium by the holding member exceeds a predetermined time, a contaminated portion of the recording member contaminated by the holding member is conveyed additionally before performing an image

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formation.

17. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control
5 in such a manner that upon reception of an image
formation start command, the recording medium is
returned to a predetermined position before
performing an image formation.

10 18. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a
predetermined time, pressure of the holding member
15 against the recording medium is changed and an
intrusion amount of the holding member into the
recording medium is changed.

19. The image forming apparatus according to
20 claim 18, wherein the control means performs control
in such a manner that upon reception of an image
formation start command, the pressure of the holding
member against the recording medium and the intrusion
amount of the holding member into the recording
25 medium are returned to the previous states before
performing an image formation.

20. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 12, wherein the control means performs control
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a
5 predetermined time, the holding member is separated
from the recording medium so as to release the
pressure of the holding member against the recording
medium.

10 21. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 20, wherein the control means performs control
in such a manner that upon reception of an image
formation start command, the pressure of the holding
member against the recording medium and the intrusion
15 amount of the holding member into the recording
medium are returned to the previous states before
performing an image formation.

22. The image forming apparatus according to
20 claim 12, wherein the control means performs control
in such a manner that when a holding time holding the
recording medium by the holding member exceeds a
predetermined time, the recording medium is conveyed
and the holding member is made to hold a non-image
25 portion.

23. The image forming apparatus according to

claim 12, wherein the holding member is a roller or pad.

24. The image forming apparatus according to
5 claim 12, wherein the image formation block performs recording on the recording medium using an ink jet recording head for discharging ink.